

Presented
by

**Dr Katie
McClymont**

**Professor
Danni
Sinnott**

Planning cemeteries: Potential contribution to green infrastructure and ecosystem services

SPE Showcase

22nd June
2022

The role of cemeteries in cities?

Cemetery space as multifunctional (Woodthorpe, 2011), with growing international research about its importance in cities beyond bodily disposal (Evensen et al, 2017, Goh and Ching, 2020, Rae 2021)

- Spaces for recreation/reflection/leisure
- Spaces for nature
- Ecosystem services- cultural, regulatory and provisioning

But cemeteries are rarely considered in local planning documents:

- 38% of LAs had no policies for cemeteries
- 14% = green infrastructure
- 14% = green/open space
- 10% = suitable for the green belt
- 11% include a site allocated for a new/extended cemetery
- 5% have specific policy

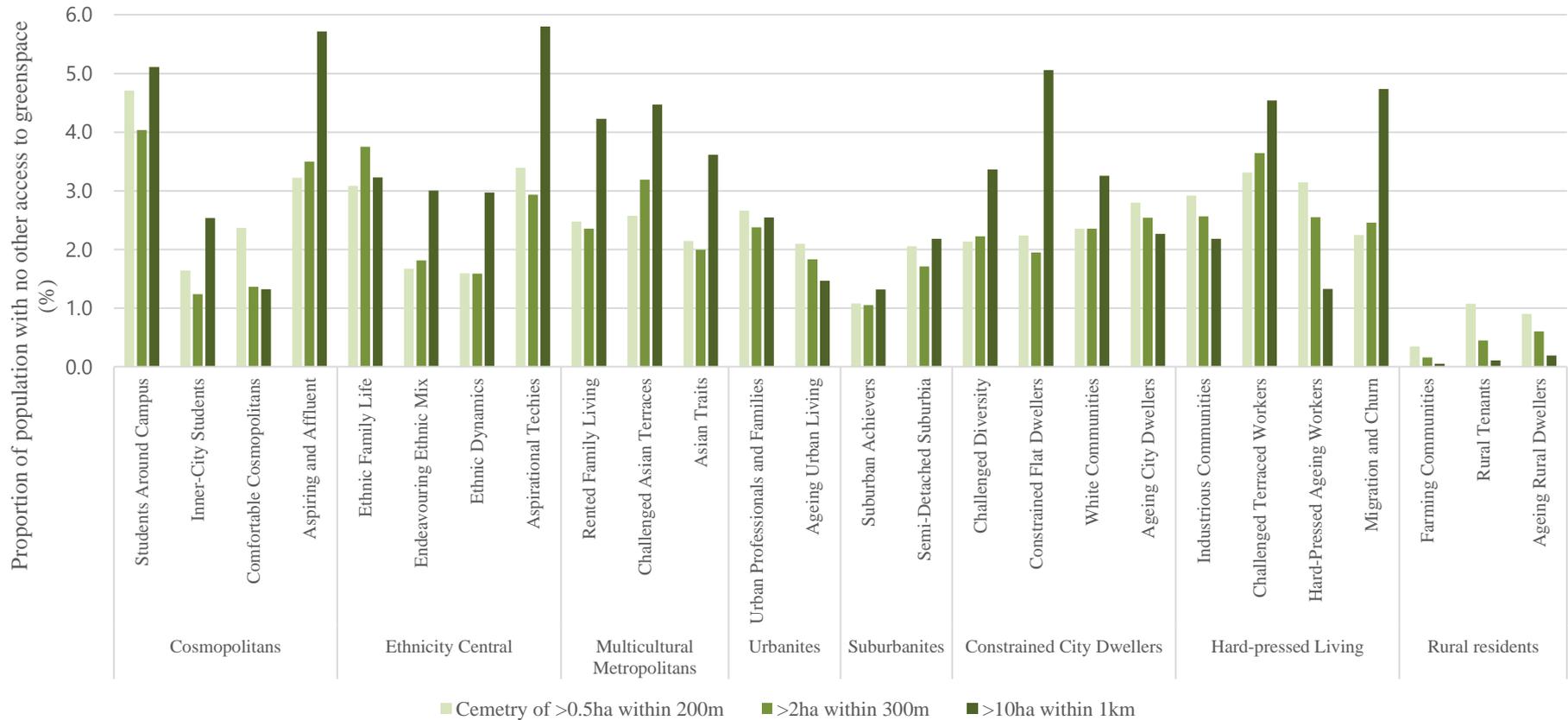
Cemeteries as greenspace

	Doorstep	Local	Neighbourhood
All	43.4%	45.1%	58.6%
Cemeteries	3.3%	4.3%	7.4%
Only cemeteries	2.1% 1.18m	2.2% 1.09m	2.6% 1.39m

Cemeteries contribute around 4% of the total greenspace area in English towns and cities.

- Important in areas of high-density housing, with higher levels of flats, social rent, unemployment, numbers of children and lower car ownership
- And areas with greater than average levels of ethnic diversity

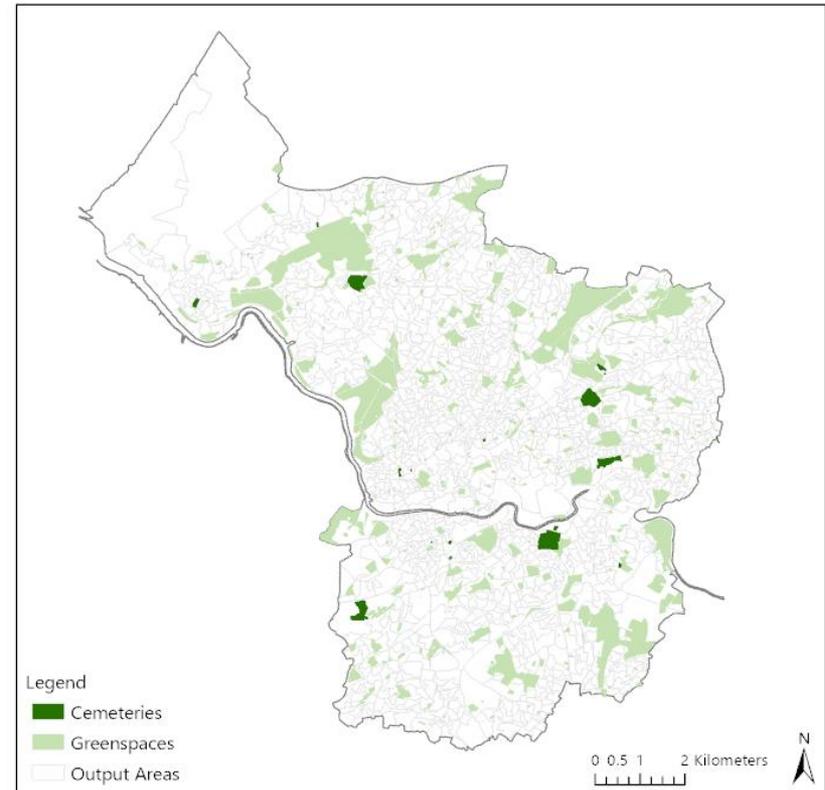
Cemeteries as greenspace nationally

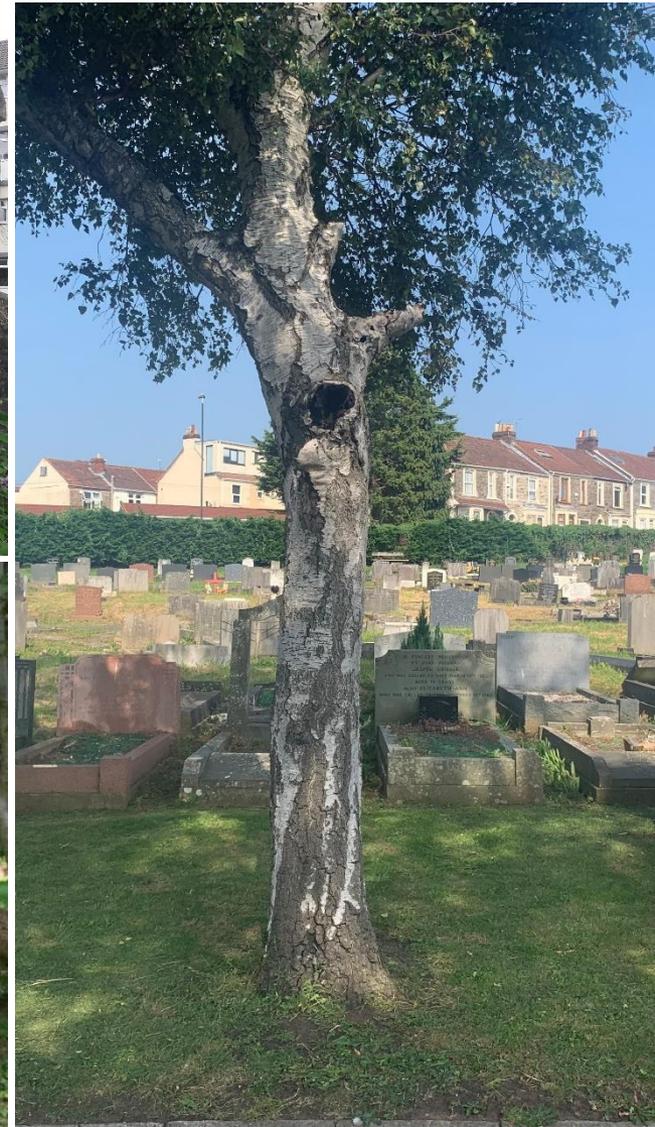


Bristol sites

Surveyed 11 out of 19 which met the ANGSt criteria using National Greenspace Survey tool

St Johns Churchyard
Blackhorse/Waters Road
Birdcage Walk
Shirehampton
Greenbank
St John's burial ground
Henbury
Canford
South Bristol
Avon View
Arnos Vale





Cemeteries in Bristol

Site	Area (ha)	Total domain score (maximum; weighting)					Total Score /100
		Access (11; 18%)	Recreation facilities (25; 16%)	Amenities (16; 22%)	Natural features (16; 20%)	Incivilities (14; 24%)	
Arnos Vale Cemetery	18.43	8	8	9	9	14	71.6
Wesleyan Burial Ground	0.50	0	0	0	4	14	29.9
St John's Burial Ground	0.54	6	5	2	8	12	51.5
Avon View Cemetery	8.73	5	2	2	3	14	39.9
Birdcage walk	1.06	4	6	6	7	14	55.2
Greenbank Cemetery	12.99	5	4	2	7	13	48.5
Canford Cemetery	11.71	6	6	6	8	14	60.7
Henbury Cemetery	0.58	3	3	5	3	13	39.9
Shirehampton Cemetery	2.15	2	1	2	3	13	32.8
St. John's Churchyard	0.57	6	4	3	7	14	53.1
South Bristol Cemetery	11.00	2	3	5	5	13	42.7

Cemeteries as greenspace?

Management for nature- space for tree planting ambitions?

History, place attachment

Walking and cycling



The need to “find a balance between under and over-management of common spaces that enables multiple uses without placing valuable assets at risk” (Swensen et al., 2016, p. 49).



Conclusions/future research

- Public perception of acceptable use of cemetery space?
- Planning for new cemeteries- building in ecosystems services by design

